Increase in bird trade

2120. PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that bird trade is on the increase; and

(b) if so, what measures Government propose to take to check this menace?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV): (a) and (b) The Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 prohibits trade in rare and endangered species of birds and regulates trade in other species of birds. Prevention and regulation of trade in birds is the responsibility of State Governments and there are no confirmed reports regarding increase in trade of birds. Government has, however, taken several measures in this regard.These are as follows:

(i) Rare and endangered species of birds are included in the Schedule-I of Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972. Hunting of birds, disturbing or damaging their eggs or nests is a punishable offence.

(ii) Trade in species of birds included in Schedule-IV is permitted with licence. Transportation of such birds is also regulated and no person can purchase, receive or acquire birds from a person not authorized to sale.

(iii) Export of birds included in the Schedules of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 is prohibited. Only six species of exotic birds are permitted for export.

(iv) Government of India has set up Regional and Sub-regional offices for wild life preservation in major export and trade centres of the country to prevent smuggling of birds, wild animals and their products.

(v) Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has been empowered under the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 to apprehend and prosecute

wild life offenders. Anti-poaching efforts are being coordinated with INTERPOL.

(vi) Government of India seeks international co-operation under the provisions of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES) for control of illegal trade in wild life items.

Animals in circus companies

2121. SHRI SWARAJ KAUSHAL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the number and names of circus companies in the country;

(b) the number and type of animals with each one of them;

(c) the number and type of animals rescued by Government during the last three years; and

(d) the manner in which Government have rehabiliated the animals rescued from the circus companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV): (a) and (b) Forty-two circuses are reported to exist in the country. Their names and the number and type of animals with each one of them is given in the enclosed Statement-I *(See* below)

(c) and (d) Out of the Forty-two circuses, 25 have surrendered animals belonging to five species, namely, lion, tiger, panthers, bears and monkeys, whose performance has been banned by the Central Government. A total of 281 animals of these species have been rescued during the last three years and rehabilitated at five Rescue Centres established by the Central Zoo Authority in different parts of the country. The list is given in the enclosed Statement-ll.